

CLASSIFICATION ~~SECRET~~F10
284

COUNTRY Germany (Soviet Zone)

TOPIC Finsterwalde Airfield

EVALUATION see below

PLACE OBTAINED

25X1

DATE OF CONTENT 18 and 24 October 1950

DATE OBTAINED

25X1
REFERENCES

PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

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1. On 18 October 1950, the Finsterwalde (N 52/A 15) airfield was again occupied by 36 twin-engine aircraft. Local residents said that they recognized many officers and PI who had been stationed there prior to the spring of 1950. (1) The Soviet soldiers bought bicycles in the Handelsorganisation (Trade Organization) stores immediately after their arrival. (2)

3. On 24 October, 7 twin-engine aircraft were seen north of the runway, 6 or 7 twin-engine planes in front of the hangars, and 2 or 3 more twin-engine planes in the air. More aircraft were possibly parked in the southeastern section of the landing field or in the hangars. The planes had one or two cockpits. Description of plane with two cockpits: two suspended in-line engines; low-wing monoplane; plexiglass lower section of nose; bottom gondola (Rumpfbodenwanne) with window at the rear from which, on one plane, a rod projected, possibly a weapon; front sections of both cockpits of plexiglass; retractable tail wheel; a bent rod on top of front cockpit; no other rods or bulges on fuselage or engines. (4)

4. There was flying between 11 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. in a very high cloud base and moderate visibility. Only individual flights of 10 to 20 minutes duration were made. Six motor vehicles, including an ambulance and a fire truck, were at the take-off point. A twin-engine LI-2 landed about noon and took off again about 10 minutes later and headed west.

5. The runway, made of poured rectangular sections, was wide enough for three planes to take off side by side. (5) A taxiway started at the western end of the runway and extended to the north and south. Its further course could not be determined. A radio mast about 30 meters high was between the six hangars on the southern edge of the field. No construction work was in progress and no building material was stored.

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Timber, piled up northeast of the field, was used for the improvement of a brickyard. Ammunition was apparently stored in the cantonment north of the field. No AA gun emplacement or radar set was seen.

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7. Buildings in Finsterwalde occupied by the Soviet Air Force included:

- a. A house near the railroad station which was fully occupied by soldiers. Marching groups of 25 to 30 M, some with cropped hair, were seen near the quarters.
- b. A house on the western perimeter of the town was occupied to capacity.
- c. A settlement on the southeastern perimeter of the town was fully occupied by officers' dependents.

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